Uncle Sam's Expedition to Abyssinia and Its Effect Upon American Trade.

King Menelik's People Clothed in Cottons From the United States-Our Trade With South Africa Greater Than With South America and China-In the Gold Mines of the Rand-Kimberley Diamonds and American Machines—New African Railroads Equipped by the Yankees—Our Goods on the West Coast-Congo Cotton Versus American Cotton-Our Commerce in Liberia, in Egypt and Along the African Mediterranean.



Washington, Dec. 4—Our Consul General at Marseilles, Robert P. Bkinner, is now on his way to Abyssinia, to make a commercial treaty with King Memel's. He goes as a representative of the American Government on an American gunboat and with a company of American marines.

His route will be across the Mediterranean to the Sues Canal and down through the Red Sea to Jibouti. In

Here he will take the new railroad which was completed last year from Jibouti to Harar. in Southeast Abyasinia, a distance of 183 miles.

At Harar he will make up a caravan of mules and camels to go across the country to the great camplike capital of Adis Ababs, where King Menelik has his

Adis Ababa, where King Meneuk has his court.

He will spend some time there making the treaty and investigating trade conditions, and will then return to Europe or the United States.

This expedition will be of great advantage to American trade.

It is the first Government step in our commercial invasion of Africa, and it was to the followed by others.

eign trade of that continent.

Africa is three times as big as Europe, and its population, by some estimates, is

Africa is three times and its population, by some estimates, is almost as large.

It already buys goods amounting to many millions of dollars, and prospectively it is one of our best customers.

At present most of our exports go via: Europe, but in the near future there will be lines of American steamers to the African ports and the trade will be direct. American goods are already well known in Abyssinia.

The people use American petroleum and

lars every year.

It is estimated that one-third of all the goods imported by the Abyssinians come from the United States, and of these the cottons alone amount to \$5,000,000.

Abyssinia has a population of three and

a half millions.

The people wear a sort of a toga made of white or gray cotton.

It is about 9 feet long and 6 feet wide.

They wear close-fitting cotton trousers and cotton shirts.
OUR GOODS SOLD IN

FORM OF BHIRTINGS.

OUR GOODS SOLD IN
FORM OF SHIRTINGS.
Much of our goods is sold in the form
of gray shirtings, and there are certain
makes which are especially popular, being
known by their trade marks.
One of the marks is a camel, another a
tiger's head, and a third a Somali warrior. At present the trade is dominated
by a firm of Greeks in Marseilles, who buy
directly from the Americans. They have
a branch house in Wall street and ship
from New York to Jibouti.
They formerly bought most of their
goods in Manchester, but the American
cotton was found to be stronger, cheaper
and more popular, and it now has the bulk
of the trade, notwithstanding the English
and Indian cottons attempt to compete
with it.

expedition to King Menelik is a

happy thought.
The King controls the frade of the

The King controls the frade of the country. He can put on tariffs or take them off at will, and can give all sorts of rebates to his favorites.

He will probably make the treaty so that a good share of the profits of the business will come to him.

I understand this it so of most of the Abyssinian trade. The King has an army of 150,000 men, and if the clothing for the soldiers could be made of American cottom it would materially increase our expects.

Consul General Skinner will bring back the patterns most liked by the people, and some of our factories may work directly for the trade.

The Abyssinian women war a mixture of blue and red cotton. The are fond of turkey red calice and have inted cotton handkerchiefs.

handkerchiefs.

Some of the Abyssinian hose made cottons are white with a red tipe twelve inches wide running through the middle of each piece. They could be usily imitated and sold at a profit.

The American invasion of Sourceuses the British and German Africa causes the British and German apporters many sleepless nights.

The London papers are full of its and I saw frequent references to it in the jour-sals of Belgium, Germany and Franc. Our trade there is growing about as

'dly as in any part of the world. We are now selling something like \$25,000,000 worth of goods every year to Natal, Cape Colony and the other countries of that region.

This is more than we sell to all South America and more than our sales to China, the East Indies, Russia, Denmark, Spain, Austria and Norway and Sweden.

This was the case with the Uganda Railway, which runs from Mombasa, on the coast a little bit above Zanzibar, into the interior as far as Lake Victoria Nyanza.

This road is now completed, and it has twenty-seven American bridges upon it.

It took the British contractors two years to put up eight bridges, and the company was in desput a contractor of the company was in desput as the case with the Uganda Railway, which runs from Mombasa, on the coast a little bit above Zanzibar, into the interior as far as Lake Victoria Nyanza.

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NEW FARMING TERRITORIES IN THESE COUNTRIES.

Not only that, but these countries are on the edge of their development. They are having an immense immigration from England; new farming terri-tories are being opened up every day, new railroads are being built and public works instituted.

Thousands of farmhouses which were

Thousands of farmhouses which were destroyed during the Boer war are rebuilding, and our hardware is in demand.

There is a market for corn planters, harrows, cultivators, plows, reapers and mowers, thrashers and all sorts of farm-

machinery. American wagons are con-sidered the best, and they sell well everywhere.
The South Africans are using our loco-

motives on the railroads, and have recent-ly bought a lot of steel cars. They like our foodstuffs and buy Ameri-

can flour and canned meats. Much of the American canned stuff goes to South Africa under English brands.

Four million pounds of tinned meats
were recently shipped from New York to

They were rebranded Shamrock, an English trade mark, and sent out to

Natal. Natal,

I am told that A rerican goods are found throughout the gold region.

They are used in Kimberley, the diamond mining center, and have made their way right into the mines themselves.

Much of the mining territory there was regued up by A medican mining contains.

opened up by American mining engineers, and these engineers early began the importation of American goods.

Kimberley has ice plants from Chicago. It has a narrow gauge railroad made of American rails laid on ties of California redwood, with locamotives that came redwood with locamotives that came

redwood, with locomotives that came

redwood, with locomotives that came from the United States. It has a dynamite plant with an Ameri-can manager, and the diamond mines themselves are in charge of an American. The same is true of the gold mines.

The Rand is not unlike parts of Nevada and the prospecting is done with American diamond drills, which the miners say are lighter than the English drills and more castly.

and more easily worked.

Much of the ore is dug down with
American picks, loaded upon cars with
American shovels, and carried through
the tunnels over American ralls. The timbering is done with carpenter tools from New England, the American saw and the American ax being everywhere found.

AMERICAN EXPORT TRADE IN-

CREASED THIRTY PER CENT.

What troubles the English and Germans We are increasing our exports at the rate of 30 per cent and upward a year. In one year we gained \$200,000 in ma-hinery and typewriters, \$110,000 in house-old goods, and more than a half million

dollars in iron.

We are now shipping more flour than ever, sending it direct from New York and San Francisco to Cape Town and Dur-

The flour goes in bags of 200 pounds or barrels of 196 pounds, but bags are pre-

ferred.

We sell patent medicines in South Africa. Any drug store there will give you our liver pills, favorite soaps, refined castor oils and our best known patent

castor oils and our best known patent medicines.

We sell electrical goods, typewriters, cash registers and musical instruments, such as the phonograph and graphophone.

There is a big demand for wire fencing and for galvanized iron sheets for roofing and building. This material is used all over South Africa, and it is now supplied chiefly by the Belgians and the English.

The new railroads of Africa are taking more or less American materials.

Lines are being built here and there all over the continent, and we are selling them locomotives, bridges and heavy machinery.

chinery.

The South African states would rather patronise the English, but they are opening up new countries and they want their orders filled immediately.

The American can do this in one-third has the the British contract. the time proposed by the British contractors and generally at a much lower rate.

within seven months after the foundations be variously trimmed with searlet and were ready.

was done on time.

The bridges were built in Philadelphia and shipped in tramp steamers to Mombasa. American engineers superintended the work and East Indian coolies performed the hard labor.

The Uganda Railroad is partially operated by American locomotives.

and style.

CAPE FOR THE BROAD-SHOULDERED FIGURE.

If she be tall and broad shouldered she

If she be tall and broad shouldered she will have the cape coming well down to the waistline and fastening across the cheet with gilt frogs and loops and cords.

Or, if she be of the more fairy type of figure, she will have the cape just coming over the slope of the shoulders, and will

be very likely to have it quite a little longer in the back than in the front. Of course, although the design be of

the military type, there will be a suffi-ciently large variety in its expression to make, it applicable to all sizes and styles of girl with an assured amount of suc-

cess in each instance.

The girl who selects the cadet gray or

blue coat-and she will be in the large majority—is almost sure to have a touch of scarlet or crimson velvet on it somewhere, and this somewhere frequently resolves itself into a high-standing collar, the effect of the band of

color around the throat being almost uni-

versally becoming.
To the very few who cannot wear some

shade or another of red below the face any of the many complementary tones in blue will prove a good substitute. Braided in narrow gold soutacne, with

some of the tressed braid between, the effect is both stylish and becoming.

The girl who does not like the high

somewhat cut-out neck, which will be much liked in all cloth costumes, and much liked in all cloth costumes, and which will in no wise detract from the severe military lines of the rest of the

In the separate coat which may be worn

tight-fitting back, the front semi-fitting,

or else with the extreme straight-front effect, and the cape coming down to a point where it will not hide the pretty

For the plainer and more utilitarian

beria. It has not as much as Great Britain.

urves of her svelte figure.

h almost any sort of frock beneath, military girl will prefer one with a

DEEP TURNOVER COLLAR A SUITABLE SUBSTITUTE

EGYPTIAN RAILWAY EXTENDED FROM KHARTOUM. A number of railroads are to be built in the Soudan, that wide strip of country

which runs across Africa between the Sa-hara and the Congo Valley. The Egyptian Railway is to be extended south from Khartoum, and English and American capitalists are now having a railway surveyed from Khartoum to Adis Ababa, the capital of Abyssinia. If this road is built it will be followed

by a road connecting it with the French line at Harar, making a continuous road from Khartoum to Jibouti on the Red Sea. Other sections have been planned along the Cape to Cairo road, and the Germans are building a line from the coast oppo-site Zanzibar which will connect with that oad somewhere in the vicinity of Lake

Tanganyika.

The French propose to continue the line which now runs from Algiers and Con-stantinopie to the easis of Biskra, south to Lake Tschad or Timbuktu across the Desert of Sahara, and there are several ines either planned or in construction The Belgians have some new railroad projects along the Congo, the road which has been built to Stanley Pool having been a great success. Indeed, Africa offers a promising field for the sale of American railway materials, and the Steel Trust and

our bridge companies should keep their eyes on it. We sell comparatively few goods in West Africa, owing to the fact that we have no direct steamship connection. The southern and central parts of that continent are as near the United States as Europe, and steamers from New York and our Southern ports should make regu-lar sallings to Cape Town, the Congo and the Gulf of Guinea. At present most of the shipping is done by the English and

Germans.

The Belgians have lines from Antwerp to the mouth of the Congo, and the Dutch also take a share of the trade. The chief English shippers are Elder,

Dempster & Co.

This firm sends steamers to most of the ports on the west coast, and it is trying o develop the trade of the British colonies there in every possible way. It has re-cently opened up cotton plantations in La-gos, and has brought cotton experts from America to oversee them.

The same has been done by the Ger-

mans, the latter having taken negroes from Booker T. Washington's school at Tuskegee to teach the people how to han-

SAME EXPERIMENT TRIED DURING CIVIL WAR.

This experiment, as far as the English olonies are concerned, is not new. It was tried during our Civil War, when prices went skyward

The result was a shipment of 1,700 bales in 1864 and of 19,000 bales in 1869. Shortly after that the business began to decline. It fell to 574 bales in 1880, rose to 3,000 bales in 1880, and dropped to one bale only in 1887. Since then but a few hundred bales have been annually exported. The cotton from West Africa is of the

The cotton from West Africa is of the short simple variety. It has a poor color and it does not bring as much as middling American cotton.

The British ship owners claim that they can carry it to Liverpool as cheaply as cotton can be brought from America, for the reason that they can take back full cargoes of manufactures to Africa, whereas the return cargoes to the United States are light.

One would think that the United States

GREATER NUMBER OF STYLES SEEN IN ST. LOUIS ARE IN CADET GRAY OR BLUE CLOTH.

These Are Trimmed in Scarlet, Gold and Black, With Gilt Braids and Brass Buttons-Cape Is Indispensable to the Correct Soldierly Effect.



SAGE. MILITARY WOOLTEX COAT

costume heavier goods will be preferred by those who follow the fashions, but these, too, will show the same claboration of braids and cords and embroideries.

The strictly tailor-made girl will the up the military idea enthusiastically, the dressmakers will not be one whit behind them in its adoption.

And in the hardenmetry braided and

Some of the Scotch plaid wooltex tweeds

or course, in these the coats are cut comparatively long, fashioned with a high standing collar, a fitted coat blousing slightly into the belt, a cape which is not much more than a sleeve cape, long basques tightly fitted over the hips and flaring but little from there.

These details are brought into high re-ilef by applications of mixed black and gold braid, and the soldierly impression furthered with handsome pendants, cords and tassels.

very slight train, and a simple band of the black and gold braid is relied upon for trimming above the hem.

While those who cater to the tastes of the semicircles upon a shaggy zibeline.

They have built up a big business in Al- WHY WOMEN DO ought to have the bulk of the trade of Ligeria.

When they took possession of that country in 1830 their annual reports to it were only a million and a half dollars.

They are now more than fifty million The country is comparatively poor and its total imports amount to only \$1,000,000 a

They are now more than fifty million

year.
The population numbers 2,000,000, but only 60,000 of these are of American descent, The population number of American descent, by 60,000 of these are of American descent, and so far our colonizing schemes have not been a success.

In Liberia all accounts are kept in American descent, building roads and railroads, building to a success.

Duilding roads and railroads, building to a success.

Our exports to Algeria are now worth about a million dollars annually. from hollers and cents, but the most common money is English. The Germans are doing what they can to get the trade.

They are now sending two steamers a week from Hamburg, and the Dutch have also established direct steamship connection.

They are made up of tools of all kinds, including reapers and mowers, threshers and portable engines.

It is the same in Tunisia, which also belongs to France.
We annually sell \$12,000 worth of agri-

tions.

We have some trade with the French Congo, and quite a good deal in the way of cotton goods with the Congo Free State. Still further south American coal oil is used in the Portuguese territories, cultural machinery to that country, and also quantities of tobacco, pork, corn and petroleum.
The Tunisians use American saws and and American tobacco is to be found alcarpenter tools and all sorts of American hardware. and American tobactors to as found al-most everywhere.

It is used for chewing, snuffing and smoking in the Congo Valley, being sent there in a leaf shape, It is smoked in cigarettes and cigars throughout South Af-rica, 175,000,000 cigarettes being annually

hardware.

The biggest market of this part of the world, however, is Egypt.

That country is controlled by England, although nominally under the Suitan, and the United States is now getting a fair share of its trade.

The building of the Atbara bridge was a

great object lesson to the English engi-neers, and much of our machinery is now FRANK G. CARPENTER.

the strictly tailor-made girl will take up the military idea enthusiastically, the dressmakers will not be one whit behind them in its adoption.

And in the handsomely braided cos-tumes, which owe their inception to this idea, the smart girl will look—if that were possible—smarter than ever.

Neverthe

With an elaborately braided and corded cape hanging loosely from a flat velvet band, which outlines the cut-out and collarless neck, the cape itself having something of a plastron effect, a coat of blue Sicilienne is belted into the figure with a broad girdle of gold braids, this being pointed with a curve in front.

The deep coat because common to mail

The deep coat basques, coming to well below the knee, are platted at intervals, he platts being stitched flat to half their length and then left to flare.

The skirt is cut with a demitrain and de-

pends entirely upon the perfect cut and fit

NOT STAMMER.

Have you ever known a woman that The fact that the proportion of those afflicted with stammering or stuttering is 100 men to I woman is one of the most curious things in the science of path-

ology. Even the specialists in nervous diseases seem utterly at a loss to account for So eminent an authority as Doctor Geo.

P. Shrady, the editor of the Medical Record, says that in all his experience he has known of only one woman that stam-mered.

Asked how he accounted for the im-

munity of the fair sex from this afflic-tion, he replied:
"It certainly is a strange thing. Stam-

"It certainly is a strange thing. Stammering is an epileptic affection of the organs of speech, and the victim is usually a person of a high strung, excitable temperament. At the last analysis the cause lies in the mind—that is, the stammer stammers because he fears he will stammer and thus makes himself ridiculous.

"Now, women are much more prone than men to nervous disorder, and this makes their immunity from stammering all the more remarkable.

The velvet reappears to simulate pocket

on each side of the tablier front of the skirt, as well as on the elbow puff of the sleeve, this sunburst motif is seen, the excellent effect upon the pl

background.
This skirt is cut to barely escape the This skirt is cut to burely escape the floor all around, and a velvet binding makes an appropriate finish at the hem.

A mixed mohair and gold braid is used to define all the seams on both cost and skirt, the black in the braid sobering down the effect of the tangerin valvet and cold ambreidars.

gold embroidery.

And in her carriage coats and evening wraps the Military Girl will hold true to her reigning fad.

her reigning fad.

While she employs more expensive and luxurious materials and trimmings, nevertheless she insists that there be some place, and that a prominent one, for her beloved gold braid and bullet buttons.

tons.
The smart girl favors white considera-

The smart girl favors white considerably, and upon a white sibeline coat she will have the military cape bordered with a band of expensive embroidered caracula soft, white curiv fur—and a dainty design worked above the band in the all-pervading gold soutache.

She will have epaulets, too, and on these will be posed great, large, bullet-shaped brass or gilt buttons, and the double-breasted fastening will be effected by means of the same buttons caught into narrow gilt cords, instead of

EVENING COATS MORE THAN THREE-QUARTER LENGTH These evening coats are con more than three-quarter length; the best of them coming to about the ankle, and the linings are frequently even more luxurious in effect and in reality than the

luxurious in effect and in reality than the outside.

And her hats, too, show the influence this military idea will have.

There will be tricorne hats, little jaunty Napoleon hats and Continental turbans, and these will be trimmed with pompons, with cockades, with military rosettes and hussar plumes.

And upon one and all of them will appear some touch of gold.

Some of them will have a gold galon for binding; others will have just a simple hand of gold braid around the crown; others, again, will have the rosette of quilled gold or silver braid mixed in with velvet—indeed, there is himply no limit

velvet—indeed, there is imply no limit to the ways in which it may be applied. You can put it on in almost any way that suits yourself; the one thing and the main thing is to have it there, and in "For some mysterious reason their

nervousness affects their organs of speech only in the rarest of instances."

A meie man in discussing woman's immunity from stammering, was ungulant enough to suggest that any interference with her ability to talk would be a cruel and unusual punishment within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States and therefore special punishment. States, and, therefore, a punishment never to be inflicted by a beneficent

women are less self-conscious than men, for it is asserted that self-consciousned is the basis of the confusion of the

is the basis of the confusion of the stammerer.

When the attention of a lifelong sufferer from halting articulation was called to Doctor Shrady's statement that the stammerer stammers through fear of stammering he replied:

"That is it exactly. One of my earliest recollections is of being laughed at by two of my aunts when I got hadly twisted in trying to make a remark. Ever since then the fear of stammering has haunted me to a greater or less degree. Now, it has been my experience that women seldom suffer from self-consciousness to this extent.

terit.
"I do not mean to say that all women are totally void of self-consciousness. I have known girls who were victims of the blusking habit, and, as my kindred affliction enabled me to speak to them about it I discovered that they blushed fear of doing so."